# THE NEWS OF BROOKLYN.

Brooklyn and Long Island readers of The Tribune receive the complete regular New-York City edition of the paper, with a special display of Brooklyn news added.

COMMISSIONER BLAIR POINTS OUT DEFECTS IN THE ELECTION LAW.

HE THINKS THE WORK OF POLL CLERKS AND CANVASSERS SHOULD BE SIMPLIFIED -- VOTERS SHOULD HAVE MORE FREE-DOM IN THE SELECTION OF CAN-DIDATES AND PRESENT EX-

HAUSTIVE HOURS OF LABOR SHOULD BE SHORTENED.

Many lessons are always taught by a popular election that do not directly concern the cess of one party or the fallure of its rival. This year's battle of the ballots was not half over before the Election Commissioners, taught by their experience with election clerks and voters began to tell each other of changes that should be made in the election laws, but now, with the voting and the counting of the votes as things of the past, the Commissioners are inclined to believe that if they constituted the Legislature they would be more disposed to make a complete new law than to try to patch up the present statute.

The science of voting and the complementary science of collecting the votes and ascertaining their decisions between the candidates have gradually been developed to a point where fraud is difficult, and where people of ordinary intelligence have no trouble in voting secretly for whom they wish. The part of the election officials is, however, so complicated by an overplus of legal red tape that much is yet to be accomplished, the Election Commissioners say, before perfection is approached. This year's election, with its unusual incentives to vote regardless of party ties, and the uncommon spirit of independence, placed before the poll clerks and the canvassers on Election Night a collection of ballots the like of which, for puzzling and perplexing problems, was never equalled. More than ever the Commissioners are convinced that the laws should be simplified and conformed to the dictates of common-sense and reason in many particulars, which mean little to the man whose only work on Election Day is to cast his vote, but much to the army of clerks which has to work hard and long to give the public the result of the voting at the earliest possible moment.

Benjamin F. Blair, the vice-president of the Board of Elections, has given unsparingly of his time to the study of the present election laws, and he has reached many interesting conclusions concerning changes which in his opinion should be made at the earliest opportunity. Commissioner Blair thinks that the ballot itself is simple enough and that the average elector is now fully educated in the art of voting. But the trouble is that the election law is too complicated, and that the entire system of conducting elections should be simplified. In respects, he thinks, the present several law is inferior to those which have preceded it. The Raines election law provides for each polling place four canvassers and two poll clerks. Mr. Blair says he does not think that a force of six men is needed at the polling place all the time, and he would remedy the situation by dispensing entirely with the poll'clerks during the polling hours of Election Day. SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES.

Talking with a Tribune reporter yesterday in his law office at No. 32 Liberty-st., Mr. Blair said: "The present law, it seems to me, provides altogether too much work for the election officials. For some of the work which the clerks and canvassers are obliged to do I can see no urgent need. For instance, the two poll clerks have to stay at the polls all day and busy themselves 'keeping record of the election,' as the

law calls it. Here is the paragraph describing the work:

"The poll clerks will make no entry in respect to any elector until an official ballot has delivered to him by the ballot clerks, and his name and the number of the ballot so delivered have been announced by the latter officers. They will then enter, in the first column, the number of the elector in the successive order of the delivery of the ballots. That is to say, the first elector to whom a ballot is delivered will be No. 1, the second elector No. 2, and so on throughout the day. To avoid confusion, if not an utter failure to comply with this requirement of the law, it will be necessary for the poll clerks to exercise great care. has been suggested that mistakes might be avoided by keeping at hand a sheet of paper bers of the electors as they receive their ballots. By that means the poll clerks will never be at a loss as to the proper number of an elector, as they might otherwise be because of the necessity of turning from one page to another of the pollbook in order to enter the names of the electors

in alphabetical order." LESS WORK FOR POLL CLERKS. "The object of this work seems to be to insure against an exchange of ballots between the voters and to provide other hinderances for fraud. Other provisions of the law, I believe, accomplish the same result, and thus make this work unnecessary. After election the books on which the poll clerks expend all this work are rarely if ever referred to. If I were asked to suggest an amendment to the law, I would propose that the poll clerks be relieved of all duty during the day, and that either they or some other set of workers be provided to aid in the counting of the votes when the polls close late

other set of workers be provided to aid in the counting of the votes when the polls close late in the afternoon.

"Few persons except those who have worked at the polls ever realize the strain upon a man's mental and physical endurance which the present law compels the election official to endure. The men are obliged to appear at the polling-place early enough in the morning to have all in readiness for the ballot-box to be opened for business at 6 o'clock. This means that they must leave their beds and start out on their work by 5 o'clock. According to the strict interpretation of the law, they cannot leave the polling-room from that time until the voting is done, and the votes are all counted, and that is rarely accomplished before midnight, and often has to be prolofiged indefinitely into the following day. Besides the inhuman treatment which such laws inflict, one must consider the ability of a man to work carefully and efficiently on the important task of counting the vote late at night, after an exciting and exhausting day of the closest confinement. Is it any wonder that mistakes are made in the counts, and that we have all this trouble with miscounts and miscalculations? No employer would think of asking his men to work steadily at an important job where vast interests were at stake for twenty or more hours without rest and a proper opportunity for refreshment.

at an important job where vast interests were at stake for twenty or more hours without rest and a proper opportunity for refreshment.

"My suggestion would be that the poll clerks be relieved of their unimportant day work, and reserved to begin their work where the canvassers leave off, in the counting and tallying of the returns. I do not say that the canvassers should be dispensed with entirely in the evening, but I do not know that a full staff of aix or more men is needed all this time. There are other things required of the clerks and canvassers in the day hours, which I think might well be left undone, in order that the workers may have some opportunity to save their energy for the night, when the greatest care must be taken to see that every vote is recorded just as the elector intended that it should be.

SKILLED MEN NEEDED.

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"The difficulty which we now experience in setting skilled men to count the votes would be largely done away with if this change could be made. We need men of great skill and careful training for the tallying and counting. Formerly bank clerks and accountants did the work, but they cannot accept such onerous backs as those the clerks now have to person, while they could and would be glad to

MANY CHANGES NEEDED spend the evening on the ballots. They could rest throughout the day, take ample opportunity to study up their duties, and then appear ty to study up their duties, and then appear fresh and strong, ready for a hard night's work which they could do far more effectively and acceptably than the overworked canvassers, who

have been on duty since daylight.

"Most of the men who now get the election work come to us on the recommendation of party workers. They are men without steady employment, and constitute the class of persons who are always looking for odd jobs. Considering the principle that all the best workers always have steady jobs, it is easy to see that the best and most efficient workers are rarely available. Still, they are hard and willing workers, and their labor is generally well and faithfully done. We now have to take great care to secure good penmen for poll clerks, merely because of the name copying, which, as I have said, seems to me unimportant. If that copying could be abandoned, we would have less trouble in picking our men.

REGISTRATION TOO CUMBERSOME.

"The system of registration is also unnecessarily cumbersome, it seems to me. One defect in the system, I think, is the method of taking the names of the voters. The names are now recorded in alphabetical order, but, as they are printed for distribution and for use at the polls they must appear in the order of the street the first place in the order of the street numbers of the voters. This makes it necessary for the canvassers and clerks to work through the last night of registration or the following Sunday to reclassify the names and put them in shape. If the names were recorded according to the addresses in the first place, much of this work would be avoided.

"I might so as industrials as the street of t

"I might go on indefinitely telling you about my opinions on the present law, and suggesting amendments, but the end might as well be made here as anywhere. I have tried only to point out in a general way what seem to me the most glaring faults with the present law.

RIGHTS IN PRIMARIES AND CONVENTIONS

"Important as all these things are, the law which is now needed more than any other is one which will protect men in the exercise of their rights in a political organization. This is a subject very difficult to deal with-probably more difficult than the Election law itself-but it is a subject whose importance is daily becoming more apparent, and which is surely coming to more apparent, and which is surely the front. Of what use is a build to a man on Election Day if he cannot have some voice in choosing the men for whom he is to vote? Now, the best most men can do is to ratify the choices of other men who succeed in one way or another in controlling the conventions and primaries. When the primaries and conventions are so con-stituted and conducted that all men can have a part in them, the right to do so will be more dear to the voter than it is now. When you secure to men the unobstructed right to exercise a choice like this, they will prize their rights more highly and will use them. My sincerest wish is that the day may soon arrive when all men can be as free to act on their convictions in the selection of their party's candidates at the primaries as they are now to choose between resentatives of the opposing parties at

#### READINGS BY MISS FIELD.

HER FIRST APPEARANCE BEFORE AN IN-STITUTE AUDIENCE.

Mary French Field, daughter of the late Eugene Field, read last night, in Association Hall, before members of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, from her father's works. Miss Field has appeared before in Brooklyn, but never to an Institute audience. Her selections included some of her father's best known and most popular poems; those dealing with children and childhood being, of course, the ones attracting the most interest. The reader was assisted by Charles S. Phillips, tenor, accompanied by H. E. H. Benedict. Mr. Phillips, among other songs, gave a musical setting by John Hyatt Brewer of Field's lullaby, "The Rockabye Lady." Mr. Brewer is a Brooklynite, a member of the Institute and of the Department of Music, which facts lent an added interest to the selection. A companion song to the lullaby was Mr. Brewer's setting to James Whitcomb Riley's poem. "There's setting to James Whitcomb Riley's poem. "There's Ever a Song Somewhere My Dear." This was the whole programme: "The Bow Leg Boy. "Father's Way." 'Jest fore Christinas' 'Educene Field', Miss Field: "The Rockabye Lady." "There's Ever a Song Somewhere. My Dear" (John Hyatt Brewer). "Sweetheart," 'Katherine's Curis' (C. B. Hawley) Mr. Phillips, "Little Boy Blue." Mother and Child." 'Some Time' (Eugene Field), Miss Field. 'Oh, That We Two Were Maying." 'In Winter I Get Up at Night' (child's song Ethelbert Nevin). "Love Token" (Francis Thomé), 'Shall I Wed Thee' (Max Spicker), Mr. Phillips; "Casey's Table D'Hote." "Suppose!" "Plenie Time" (Eugene Field), Miss Field. accompanied by H. E. H. Benedict. Mr. Phillips, D'Hote," "S Miss Field.

### TROLLEYS ON THE SEA BEACH ROAD.

THE HEIGHTS COMPANY INTENDS TO MAKE

work has been began by the Processian Heights
Railroad Company for the operation of the trolley
system on the Sea Beach road next spring. The
Brooklyn Heights company has secured an absolute title to the Sea Beach property, with which, by the summer, it proposes to make three different connections. The principal connection will be at Sixty-fifth-st, and Second-ave. This connection is entered through a cut, which extends for some

entered through a cut, which extends for some distance before it comes out in what is known as West Brooklyn.

The Third-ave, and the Court-st, lines will connect with the Sea Beach road at this point. Special facilities will also be provided for the transportation of passengers from the Thirty-minth-st, ferry by means of the Second-ave, line. It is also proposed to connect the Nostrand and Flathush ave, lines with the newly acquired property. The work of clearing the terminal yard at Second-ave, and Sixy-fifth-st, has also been begun, it is said that P. H. Flynn, president of the Gravesend and Coney Island Raifrond, will, if the opportunity presents itself, try to stop the Brooklyn Heights company from extending its lines over the new purchase.

MRS. MEYER DECLARED NOT INSANE.

SUPERINTENDENT ELLIOTT SAYS SHE IS A BET TER SUBJECT FOR AN ALMSHOUSE

Superintendent Elliott of the Long Island State Hospital for the Insane on Friday informed Super-intendent Duryea of the Flatbush asylum that Catherine Meyer, who was recently committed to that institution, had been placed under careful surveillance, and that she was a better subject for the almshouse or the Flatbush hospital. The letter stated that Dr. Dewing, the general superin-tendent, had concurred in the opinion, and that the woman was not insane under the interpreta-tion of the law, and that she would be dismissed as soon as the Commissioners were ready to take

her.

The Charities Commissioners vesterday told Superintendent Murray of the Almshouse to make ready to receive the woman. He said he had had no experience with her, but would do the best he could. Many are of the opinion that Mrs. Meyer rightly belongs in the insane asylum, and that the only solution of the problem now is through legislation. The Commissioners refused to discuss the case.

### STABBED AND MAY DIE.

A QUARREL BETWEEN TWO MEN LIKELY TO END

Oswald Scharer, thirty-three years old, of No. 289 Harman-st., is in a critical condition in St. Catherine's Hospital, suffering from three stab wounds in the right side of the neck and one in the chest, just over the heart. The latter wound, it is feared, may cause his death. The wounds, it is alleged, were inflicted by Frederick Weinland, of No. 229 Himrod-st., who is now in jail. Both men had been fast friends until a year ago, when they quarrelled, because, as Scharer says, Weinland prevented him from securing a place in Osman's dye works, at Cypress Hills, where Weinland is employed.

The stabbing occurred on the Knickerbocker-ave. station platform of the Myrtle-ave. elevated railroad, just after 6 o'clock yesterday morning, and was wincessed by about fifty people. Two women who were in the gathering fainted, and considerable excitement followed among the others.

Just as Scherer was about to board a train Weinland stepped in front of him, preventing him from entering the car. This angered Scharer, who struck Weinland a blow in the face with his fist. The men then clinched and fell on the platform. While they were struggling the blade of a knife was seen in Weinland's hand by the crowd, who shouted in warning. A few seconds later Scharer cried that he had been stabbed.

Just then Policeman Janvin entered the station, and, hearing Scharer's cries, seized Weinland. Scharer was then found to be covered with blood, which was flowing from the wounds in his neck and over his heart. An ambulance was summoned and hurried with the man to the hospital. Weinland was taken to the Hamburg-ave. police station, and later arraigned before Justice Lemon, who committed him to await the result of Scharer's wounds.

BROOKLYN BOROUGH'S PRESIDENT SHORE DRIVEWAY PLANS.

WHAT EDWARD M. GROUT WILL HAVE TO DO, AND HOW HE INTENDS TO DO IT.

By the provisions of the charter by which the greater city will be governed, the duties of the borough president are specifically stated. While the office is nominally inferior in its scope and limitation to that of Mayor, the incumbent will have almost as extensive a field in which to exercise a power for the material advancement of the city as that bestowed upon its chief executive. It may thus be apparent that much will be required of the men to whom have been intrusted the duties of the presidents of the five boroughs which will constitute Greater New-York,

Edward M. Grout, the president-elect of the Borough of Brooklyn, has even thus early given positive assurance that he will bring to the conduct of the office the dignity and disinterestedness which It warrants. He has spoken of it as being of no less importance than that of Mayor, and if his administration be in accordance with his promises a standard hardly admissible of censure will be

Each of the five boroughs, by the previsions of the charter, is to have a president, elected with the Mayor, and to serve for the same period-four The presidents of the boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn and The Broax are to receive annual salaries of \$5,000; those of the boroughs of



EDWARD M. GROUT President-elect of the Borough of Brooklyn.

Queens and Richmond, \$1,000 each. The president of any borough may be removed by the Mayor, on charges, subject to the approval of the Govern-Vacancies are to be filled by a majority vote of all the members of the Municipal Assembly represent-ing the borough in which the vacancy exists. Such elections are ordered by the Mayor, who preddes and has no vote, unless there is a tle. In the same manner, if occasion warrants, a temporary

ments.

In the Borough of Brooklyn all the meetings of the local boards will be held to the City Hall. The President is to call such meetings and preside over them, and has constructed and other acts of the local boards are to be transmitted to the higher authorities by the President of the borough. Any petition of the local board for desired improvements the President must take to the etry Board of Public Improvements and advocate it to the best of his ability. He is of course, a member of the Board of Public Improvements. The president of a borough has not however, a vote in that Board, except upon matters relating exclusively to the borough which he represents. While, as will be seen, he is the messanger between the local boards and that of public improvements, he must also become the advocate of his people. To be abreast of the varying phases of the larger body the President of the borough, if he would earnestly serve his constituents, will have scarcely any time except for his official duties. To his arguments he must unite logic, persuasiveness, and, if possible, magnesism, for objections will surely have to be overcome and friends must be won to his cause. He must be a pariliar mentarian his presiding over deliberative bodies will require that—and his knowledge of the law and of the purport of the charter amendments will also be tested.

President Grout is a prominent lawyer, the former partner of Judge William J. Gasnor, and a firm believer it and advocate of municipal ownership of franchises. He is about forty years old, and a member of a number of Brook'yn clubs. He was graduated at Colgate.

### THEY WILL BE CITY MAGISTRATES.

BROOKLYN POLICE JUSTICES TO CHANGE THEIR TITLES ON JANUARY L

When the new charter goes into effect, on January 1, the eight Police Justices of Brooklyn will change their titles to City Magistrates, and two Magistrates additional to those now on the bench will be appointed. No Magistrate will be assigned

will be appointed. No Magistrate will be assigned to a court permanently, but will, in his turn, make the circuit of the city.

To familiarize themselves with the new law blanks that will come into use, and to talk over the situation generally, Justices Teale, Brenner, Kramer, Worth, Lemon and Bristow had a session yesterday afternoon in Judge Brenner's Court, in Adams-st. The absences were Justices Steers, of Platbush, and Nostrand, of Coney Island. Justice Teale sold there was no political significance to be attached to the meeting. Those present simply examined the 23 legal forms that will be in use when the new year begins.

### ELLEN PECK FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM.

APPLICATION MADE TO JUSTICE MADDOX FOR A CERTIFICATE OF REASONABLE DOUBT.

Maddox in the Supreme Court for a certificate of reasonable doubt in the case of Mrs. Ellen Peck, who was convicted recently in New-York City of grand larceny in the second degree, as a second offence, and sentenced to State prison for five years. The request was made by Mrs. Peck's counsel, pending an appeal to the Appellate Division of

The certificate of doubt acts as a stay of proceed ings. Mrs. Peck's counsel said that she was now about seventy years old. About twelve years ago she was convicted of forgery in the third degree and sentenced to serve four years. She served the and sentenced to serve four years. She served the term, and when she was indicted on the last charge the other was brought up. Her counsel said it was alleged that she went to a jeweller, Christian Gini, and secured jewelry valued at \$400. She did not pay for it, as she said that she wanted to take it home in order to show it to her daughter and son. If they liked the valuables, she assured the dealer, she would buy them. It was also alleged that a few days later she secured another piece of jewelry, for which she paid in part. Mrs. Peck was convicted on the second count, the first count being removed from the consideration of the jury by the Court. Counsel alleged that the conviction as a second offence could not stand.

Assistant District-Attorney John D. Lindsay, of New-York, opposed the application, alleging the conviction was regular, and that it would not be reversed by the Appellate Court. Decision was reserved.

### BURIED WITH MILITARY HONORS.

Charles W. Themas, a member of Troop G, was buried yesterday in Greenwood Cemetery. The 8d Platoon sent an escort to the funeral procession. The detachment wore caps, blouses, overcoats, rid-The detachment wore caps, blouses, overcoats, rid-ing breeches and boots. A carriage, containing the pallbearers and members of the troops, followed; then the hearse, after which was the trooper's horse, saddled, and bearing his dead master's sabre and carbine. Carriages containing the relatives and friends formed the rear of the procession. The funeral services were held at the house on Friday evening at 7 o'clook. Many members of the Groop was present.

OPENED THIS WEEK.

AVE., AND LATER TO FORT HAMILTON-AVE .- ACTUAL CONDITION OF THE

THE WORK TO BE CARRIED AS FAR AS SECOND-SHORE ROAD AT PRESENT.

Although the work on the Shore Road under the present contract is not proceeding at all to the satisfaction of the members of the Commission, they are completing their plans for going on, not only with the drive along the shore of the Bay and the Narrows, but also with the connection needed for easy access from Fort Hamilton-ave, to the water-front. At a meeting of the Commission to be held at the City Hall on Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock blds will be opened for the construction of the second section of the drive, which will carry it from the shore as far as Second-ave, between Sixty-fifth and Sixty-sixth sts. The distance covered by this section is nearly half a mile.

The road here will not be built to the full width planned, but under the law the Commission is at liberty to provide for partial construction. The road will be constructed in the best manner as far as it goes; and it is safe to say that this time the Commissioners will not repeat their mistake of giving the contract to a concern incapable of carrying it out according to agreement. The first time they let a contract they gave it to the lowest bidder, in spite of the reputation which that firm had gained, and the result is that work which should have been finished last September is now so far from completion that it is impossible for any one to say when the end will be in sight.

Besides the contract to be awarded this week, the Commissioners and their engineers are perfecting plans for the last section of the work, which will carry the drive all the way to Fort Hamilton-ave., and it is the intention to award a contract for this section before the end of the year. The plan is to go under Third-ave, by a subway, and for the ornamental part of this construction the services of McKim, Mead & White, the well-known architects, have been secured. Artistic treatment of this part of the work is thus assured. The material obtained by excavating for this cut or subway will come in handy in connection with the filling which will be necessary on the water-front.

Although the contract with Cody Brothers called for the completion of the Shore Road proper by September 1, not a rod of the roadway has yet been actually finished. few weeks ago the contractors made an assignment to George Fruh, and the Commissioners consented to let Fruh go on with the work and at least see what he could do. On account of some delay caused by the slowness with which certain work was done by the City Works Depariment, the time for the completion of the contract was extended to December 1. From present indications very little of it will be finished by that time, and along a large part of

ished by that time, and along a large such the road nothing has yet been done.

Near the south end of the improvement, in the vicinity of One-hundredth-st., the last surface is now being rolled down, and a few rods of the road will soon be ready for use. Between this point and Ninety-second-st the telford foundation has been laid and much of the course has been applied. Here, foundation has been laid and much of the broken stone course has been applied. Here, too, the gutters of brick have been practically completed. They are about four feet wide, and at present it is possible for a bicycler to ride about half a mile on them without great effort, although he is compelled to give close attention to where he is going. A hint at least is afforded him of what a fine thing the Shore Road will be in its finished state.

North of Ninety-second-st, little has been done for a considerable distance, although enough

for a considerable distance, although enough in places to render the road virtually impassa-ble; then there are evidences of grading again, ble: then there are evidences of grading again, and when Seventy-ninth-st, is reached the foundation is found to have been laid, and the brick gutter completed—on one side here—for sixty or seventy rods. Beyond this the road is mainly in its primitive state again as far as Bay Ridge, where the curve will be made in the direction of Fort Hamilton-ave.

One thing can be said for the roadway as far as it has been constructed—it is built to The foundation is of genuine telford, the large stone blocks being carefully set by hand and the interstices between them filled in in the same way. There is no doubt about the permanent character of the work.

It is not strange that the Shore Road Com-missioners are a set of disgusted men as they look at what is and think of what might have heen if a competent and wide-awake contractor had been employed. Apparently, however, hav-ing got themselves "in a hole," they have done all in their power to hasten the completion of the work—at least, all that could be done with-out going into the courts and tying the whole business up tightly for several weeks. No one questions the good faith with which they have acted; it is only to be regretted that a mistake was made in the awarding of the conmistake was made in the awarding of the con-tract—a mistake that is not at all likely to be repeated.

### TO CALL THE REV. DR. MACDONALD.

HE WILL BE ASKED TO BECOME PASTOR OF THE

Avenue Baptist Church, held on Friday evening, it was voted to extend a call to the Rev. Dr. Robert MacDonald, of Boston. Should Dr. MacDonald ac-cept, he will be asked to begin his duties on Janury 1. George R. Vernon, chairman of the Pulpit Committee, presided. The salary is fixed at \$6,000. Dr. MacDonald has been paster of the Warren Dr. MacDonald has been paster of the Warren Avenue Baptist Church, which is one of the leading churches of Boston, for seven years. He is a graduate of the Newton Theological Seminary, and was for some time a graduate student at Harvard University. He is thirty-seven years old.

The Washington Avenue Baptist Church is one of the oldest in the city. One of its offshoots is the Emmanuel Baptist Church. The vacancy to which Dr. MacDonald has been called was caused by the sudden death of the Rev. Dr. Frank M. Ellis. Dr. Ellis, who came to this city from Baltimore, was the successor of the Rev. Dr. Edward Braislin. Dr. MacDonald is not urknown to Brooklyn people, He has preached in the Clinton Avenue Congregational Church and in the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, and was well received by both congregations.

### TO EXTEND THE INSTITUTE'S WORK.

A PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE HAN-

An effort is being made to extend the winter lectures of the Brooklyn Institute to the Eastern District by a number of the prominent residents in that section of the city. Three churches have offered the use of their buildings, and a public meeting will be held to-morrow night in the Hanover Club, Bedford-ave, and Rodney-st., to try and

bring about a satisfactory result.

At a recent meeting a committee composed of Mayor Frederick W. Wurster, Herbert F. Gunnison, George H. Fisher, the Rev. Dr. John Coleman Adams, the Rev. Dr. J. H. Darlington, Daniel T. Wilson, Henry C. Wright, Walter B. Gunnison, Wilson, Henry C. Wright, Walter B. Gunnison, George D. Hamlin, the Rev. Dr. J. D. Weils, the Rev. Dr. J. T. Duryea, Thomas P. Peters, William C. Bryant, the Rev. Sylvester Malone, Andrew D. Baird, James D. Bell, Herman Mundhenk, the Rev. Dr. J. E. Adams, Louis Francis, the Rev. John D. Clark and the Rev. S. G. Welskotten were appointed to arrange for a public meeting to discuss the subject. A circular was also issued and malled to a large number of Eastern District residents.

Mayor Wurster will preside at the meeting, and Professor Franklin W. Hooper, the director of the Institute, will make an address. There will also be addresses by a number of clergymen.

SUDDEN DEATH OF SAMUEL DIXON. of the Eastern District, died suddenly on Friday night at his home, No. 141 Kesp-st. A few seconds before the end came he had asked his wife to pre-pare some broth for him, and as Mrs. Dixon started to leave the room he fell dead. Mr. Dixon had been complaining of feeling ill for

three days, but did not take to his bed. He was born in New-York, and was sixty-five years old. For more than forty years he lived in Brooklyn. He was engaged in the produce commission business in Greenwich-st., New-York, at the time of his death. About four months ago he was stricken with heart disease, but the attack was not of a serious nature at the time, and he continued to attend to business. Mr. Dixon was a member of the consistory of the First Reformed Church, holding the office of secretary. He had made up the minutes and books of the church society just before he died. He was also a member of Brooklyn Lodge F. and A. M., and Amparanth Council, Knights of Honor. A widow and four grown-up sons survive him. The funeral will be held te-morrow evening. three days, but did not take to his bed. He was

### A YEAR OF GOOD WORK.

BIDS FOR THE SECOND SECTION TO BE WHAT THE STATE CHARITIES AID AS-SOCIATION HAS ACCOMPLISHED.

> MANY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE INSTITUTIONS IN FLATBUSH-SOME OF THE ORGANI-

ZATION'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS. The Kings County Visiting Committee of the State Charitles Aid Association held one of its

most interesting meetings of the year in the Brooklyn Library Building last Thursday. Mrs. Tunis G. Bergen, chairman of the committee, presided, and her report showed that the year had seen a remarkable improvement in the institutions at Flat-This committee has made many suggestions to the

Commissioners of Charities, which nearly always have been adopted by them.

The most important resolution adopted at Thursday's meeting was one suggested by Mrs. Bergen, which recommends that the Commissioners appoint a woman as deputy or clerk to hear the complaints of women. "This suggestion is of so great importance that

it is a wonder it never occurred to us before," said Mrs. Bergen yesterday. "It is as important to a woman to hear complaints and receive applications from women as it is to have matrons in station-houses. It is true that the present Commissioners retire from office on January 1, but we think that if they appoint a woman to this office the propriety of it will be so obvious that future Boards of Charities will never depart from the precedent so established."

Mrs. Bergen, referring to her report and to the proceedings of the meeting to a Tribune reporter yesterday, said:

"Radical improvements have been made to the outldings and grounds of the almshouse and hospital. This work has been done by convicts. The buildings have been reconstructed and renovated, and the improvements in the almshouse are especially pleasing.

nurses' home is now complete. It was oc cupled last week, and the work of the school has now begun. The opportunity is thus offered for getting better nurses. The separate ward for consumptives is also complete. Changes have been wrought in the pavilion for imbeciles. At the almshouse for women, the basement wards, which were commented upon by this committee as

At the almshouse for women, the based which were commented upon by this committee as being inappropriate for use as dormitories, have been thoroughly renovated. One hundred old women have been taken to the second floor. As the basement was ill-ventilated and uncomfortable, we are especially gratified at this change.

"We adopted a resolution recommending that a ward in the woman's almshouse be set aside for extremely old and feeble women. They should be in charge of the hospital staff and of trained nurses, so that they may be cared for properly.

"The new bathhouse of the almshouse, with hot and cold spray baths, is a marked improvement over the old system, when there was a single tub or trough for all.

"The school for incapable children is doing well. It was piaced in charge of an expert from Elwyn. Penn. whose salary was first paid by the city. There are twenty-five children under instruction. Twelve children sent from this school to the Craig Colony, in Livingston County, are reported to be brighter than the average. This speaks well for the training they received here."

That overcrowding has not been done away with altogether is shown by the official statement that there were 1.357 inmates in the almshouse on Sentember 30, while the proper capacity is only 1.200. The hospital contained, on the same date, 430, and the peritentiary 726. tember 30, while the proper capacity is only 1.200. The hospital contained, on the same date, 459, and the penitentiary 726.

#### INSTITUTE FEATURES THIS WEEK.

THE THIRD CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT-A LECTURE BY DR. EMERY.

The principal feature of this week in the programme of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences is the third chamber music concert of the season, which will be given on Wednesday evening in Association Hall, at Bond and Fulton sts. The concert will be given by the Spiering String Quartet of Chicago, which is organized as follows: Theodore Spiering, first violin; Otto Roehrborn, second violin; Adolph Weidig, viola, and Herman 'cello. The quartet will be assisted by Hugo Wittg instein, flutist. It will be the occasio of the first appearance of this organization before a Brooklyn audience, and much interest is attached to the concert. The programme is a solid one, in cluding the quartet in C major for strings by Mozart, a serenade in D major for violin, viola and flute, by Beethoven, and a quartet in D minor for

strings, a posthumous work of Schubert.
Sidney Wooliett, who some weeks ago read Long fellow's "Hiawatha" before the Institute, will read twice this week, on Friday afternoon and Saturda;

twice this week, on Friday afternoon and Saturday evening, each reading being in Association Hall. On Friday afternoon Mr. Woollett will rend Tennyson's "Elaine," and for the evening reading "Enoch Arden" is scheduled.

Mr. and Mrs. Georg Henschel, who began the series of song recitals to be given by the Institute this season, proved so satisfactory to the large audience who heard them that, by request, they are to give an extra concert in Association Hall on Wednesday evening, December 1. The programme will be entirely different from that at the previous concert, and is calculated to show the versatility of both artists.

Of the resular programme of lectures, one under the auspices of the department of chemistry on Friday evening in the Art Building, at No. 174 Montague-st. will prove interesting Health Commissioner Z. Taylor Emery is to talk on "Sanitation for the City of Brooklyn," and his lecture will be illustrated by lantern photographs.

### THINK LIGHTNING KILLED THEM.

MEN WHO PERISHED IN AN OPEN BOAT DID NOT

Residents of Riverhead are much interested in Residents of Riverhead are much interested in the discussion as to whether Andrew Poley and William Wells, who died on Tuesday, were killed by a stroke of lightning. Several physicians of Eastern Suffolk think it improbable that the men could have died as a result of exposure in a temperature of thirty-nine degrees. There was thunder and lightning on Tuesday night.

Dr. R. G. Cornwell of Jamesport, said that he had no doubt that the men, who were in a boat, were killed by lightning. Luther Moore, of Aquebogue, who is Poley's father-in-law, is of the same opinion, as there were marks on the men's bodies, evidently caused by lightning. Poley was slitting in the boat, as if steering, when he was killed. The mast was broken and the deck torn up, and there were other indications of lightning.

### GOOD NEWS WAS FATAL.

MRS. HARBON DIED FROM EXCITEMENT CAUSED BY GREAT JOY.

Excessive joy seldom kills, but something closely akin to it was the cause of the sudden death yes-terday morning, at No. 256 Cleveland-st., of Mrs. Nellie Harbon, wife of Charles J. Harbon, a sailor lately returned to Brooklyn from a cruise, which kept him away from his young wife for two years, Harbon had just told his wife that he had made his plans to resign from the Navy and stay home with her. She was overjoyed, and showed it, Em-bracing his wife Harbon kissed her on the fore-

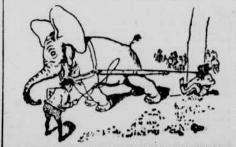
bracing his wife Harbon kissed her on the lock-head.

"Kiss me again, Charlie; it may take away the terrible pain in my head," said she. And then she turned pale, clasped her hands to her head, and would have fallen to the floor but for her hus-band's support. Harbon was frightened as he saw his wife's eyes close, and laying her on a lounge rushed to the office of Dr. Frank Senior, at No. 246 Arlington-ave., a short distance away. The physician, as soon as he looked at Mrs. Harbon, declared her dead. Coroner Nason held an in-quest late yesterday afternoon, and found that death had resulted from the rupture of a blood ves-sel in the brain, probably caused by undue excite-ment.

DR. ABBOTT TO PREACH IN ST. PAUL. The Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, of Plymouth Church, will this evening begin a series of Sunday evening discourses on "The Life and Epistles of Paul." There is as much interest manifested in this concerning the Bible as literature. Dr. Abbott said yesterday that the lectures would continue until after Easter and that the system of questioning that prevailed in last winter's course will be followed up this winter. series of sermons as there was a year ago on those

YERSIN'S ANTI-PLAGUE SERUM. From The New-York Medical Record.

It is reported from Bombay that Yersin has had much success with his anti-piague serum, the only cases not amenable to treatment being those which were seen too late, the disease having already become firmly established and the patient being practically moribund.



THEY FORM A GOOD ROADS ASSOCIA-

TION OF THEIR OWN.

DRIVERS ORGANIZE.

THEIR INTERESTS TO BE LOOKED AFTER IN THE SAME MANNER THAT THE L. A. W. PROTECTS WHEELMEN.

William M. Clarke, General Eastern Agent of the Missouri Pacific Railway, who lives in Stuyvesant-ave., ex-Alderman Itjen, W. J. Moser, the liveryman: A. R. Baxter, C. M. Johnson, C. Wright, A. H. Nichols, A. A. Dien, John F. Burton, Charles E. Moser and others, all of whom are horse owners and frequent the Boulevard in pleasant weather, met last night at Minden's Hotel on the Boulevard and organized the Drivers' Good Roads Association, which is designed to protect the interests of horsemen to somewhat the same extent that the L. A. W. and Good Roads Association now look after the walfare of the wheelmen.

The organization will be strengthened by aggressive work on the part of the organizers, and it is hoped that many abuses which at present annoy the horsemen of New-York and Brooklyn will be done away with.

Mr. Clarke is one of the prime movers in the new association. A week or two ago he called the attention of a number of his friends to the poor condition of the lower part of the Boulevard, and contrasted it with the well-kept cycle paths provided by the city. All agreed that while the wheelmen were entitled to all they received, the drivers were often ignored, and ought to protect their rights.

When Mr. Clarke was seen at Minden's last night he said:

"We have had some little trouble in getting started up to this time, but there is a strong sentiment which has prompted the organization of the Drivers' Association. We are not hostile to the wheelmen, but we feel that when so much is being done for cycling, some of the needs of horsemen should be attended to. I have no doubt at all of the success or the permanency of

the association,"
W. J. Moser, proprietor of the Opera Stables, in Halsey-ct., said:
"The trouble is this. When a member of the League of American Wheelmen goes to the Park Commission and makes a complaint, the official at once takes off his hat and pays the deepest attention. If a horseman makes a comdeepest attention. If a horseman makes a complaint the Commissioner is likely to ask, 'Who are you, anyway?' and the complaint is ignored. We intend to organize and get our rights. The wheelmen have splendid paths of their own, and yet the drivers of horses are compelled to dodge women and unskilful riders, who desert the paths for the general roadways. Numbers of bicyclists persistently use the highways, and seem to regard the presence of a horse as a sort of impertinence."

The following officers were elected: President, William M. Clarke; vice-president. Eben J.

William M. Clarke: vice-president. Eben J. Beggs; treasurer, E. H. Itjen; secretary, Wills

"Our first move after getting thoroughly or-"Our first move after getting thoroughly ofganized," said President Clarke, "will be an
effort to have the Boulevard macadamized all
the way to the sea. At present there is macadam for two miles and soft road the rest
of the way, for three miles. Nobody wants to
ride half way down the Boulevard and then
turn and come back. This we have to do when
it rains, and it is somewhat annoying to see
the wheelmen go all the way to the sea on their
hard, smooth paths. It is an exhilarating thing
to look at the ocean, and the Atlantic makes
a pleasant objective point for a drive. So our
first move will be to get the lower end of the
Boulevard paved. Boulevard paved.

"We are in no sense antagonistic to cyclists. In fact, most of us ride wheels. Their perfect organization has been an object lesson to us." About twenty-five prominent drivers attended the meeting, among them; Willis C. Evans, C. J. Moller, jr., T. Moser, John H. Monteath, N. L. Rappelyea, Peter Wood, H. Delamater, C. W. Tandy, William Munch, Henry Gerhardt, H. S. Baird, A. J. Sayer, Claud M. Johnson, George Reitze, John Clark, Martin Sinnot, E. H. Moser, Fhormas, Monaha, Charles, Lewis, Monaha, Charles, Lewis, Charles Lewis, Thomas Monahan, Charl-Josephs and Joseph Balmers

#### OBITUARY.

HENRY HOLDEN.

Henry Holden, one of Brooklyn's oldest residents died on Friday morning from heart disease at his

home, No. 761 Washington-ave. Mr. Holden was born in Beckley, Sussex County, England, January 13, 1836, and came to Brooklyn forty-eight years ago. Soon after his arrival in America he became engaged in the trucking business. The enterprise was successful, and in a short time he accumulated a competence.

In 1857 Mr. Holden became connected with the Perkins Goodwin Paper Company, and remained with this concern up to the time of his death. Perkins Goodwin Paper Company, and remained with this concern up to the time of nis death. The funeral will be held this afternoon at o'clock. The Rev. Charles L. Goodell, pastor of the Hanson Place Methodist Episcopai Church, will officiate. A widow, one daughter and three sons survive him. Burial will be in the family plot in Greenwood Cemetery to-morrow morning.

CATHERINE M'BRIDE WILDER. Mrs. Catherine McBride Wilder, wife of Dr. R. G. Wilder, died yesterday morning from heart dis-ease at her home, No. 52 Fort Greene Place. asse at her nome, No. 52 Fort Greene Place.

Mrs. Wilder was born in Cold Spring, Long
Island, in December, 1852, and came to Brooklyn
twenty years ago. The Rev. Mr. Goodell will conduct the funeral, and the burial will be in the
family plot in Greenwood Cemetery to-morrow

## A CHIEF OF POLICE ARRESTED.

HE CARRIED OUT VILLAGE LAWS BY KILLING A DOG, AND NOW HE IS IN TROUBLE.

Deputy Sheriff John F. Rogers, who is Chief of Police of the village of Southampton, was arrested yesterday on complaint of Samuel Rodber, the village blacksmith. Rogers was taken into custody because he was obeying the laws of the village.

There is a dog ordinance in Southampton, and it was while trying to carry out its provisions that Rogers got into trouble. The ordinance requires the Chief to catch a.. unlicensed dogs, remove them to the pound, inform the owners, and if the fine imposed is not paid the dogs are to be shot. Rogers is expected to catch the dogs, as well as to be on the lookout for thieves and other lawbreakers. Southampton is a quiet town, and of late there has been no excitement there except that caused by the Chief of Police going through backyards and over

fences trying to arrest dogs.
On Friday the water spaniel belonging to the village blacksmith was in the street. Chief Rogers noticed that the dog was not liceased and promptly selzed him. After the dog was in the pound Rodber was informed. He would not pay the fine, it is alleged, and his dog was killed. This made Rodber furious. He applied to Justice of the Peace W. M. Howell for a warrant for the arrest of Rogers. Rodber charged the Chief with stealing his dog, but Justice Howell would not issue the warrant. Then

Justice Howell would not issue the warrant. Then Rodber threatened suit against the Village Trustees, said Justice Howell was in league with the Chief and the other officials, and on leaving the Justice's office declared that he would secure a warrant if he had to go to the end of Long Island for it.

Rodber hitched up his rig and drove to Bridgehampton. There Justice of the Peace G. Clarence Topping was more sympathetic, and he issued the warrant. This was given to Sheriff Terry to serve, and he placed the Chief under arrest.

Chief Rogers was taken to Bridgehampton, arraigned hefore Justice Topping on the charge made against him by Blacksmith Rodber, pleaded not guilty, and was informed that he would be told when the trial date would be set.

BURNED BY EXPLODING GASOLINE.

Alfred Worden who lives in State-st., near Courtst., and George Brown, twenty-two years old, of Webster-ave., near First-st., Windsor Terrace, were badly burned by the explosion of a gasoline tank badly burned by the explosion of a gasoline tank yesterday afternoon in a shed in Pain's freworks factory. Coney Island-ave., and Avenue S. The men were working in a shed used as a drying room, near a tank filled with gasoline, when there was an explosion, and the burning fluid spattered over their hands and faces. The fire was soon out, but the men were nearly crazy with the pain from their burns before Dr. H. S. Forman got to them. They were taken to the Methodist Hospital.

INJURED BY A SCAFFOLD COLLAPSE. As a result of the parting of the boards in a scaffold used in the erection of the new Bedford Presbyterian Church, at Dean-st. and Bedford-ave. three of the workmen were thrown to the ground a distance of about thirty feet, and two had to be a distance of about thirty feet, and two had to be removed to the hospital. Lawrence Smith, the foreman, who lives at No. 432 Fulton-st., sustained a fracture of the ribs and was removed to his home. Gustave Wagner, a helper, who is forty years old, and lives at Ellington, N. Y., received a fracture of the arm and was taken to St. John's Hospital. James A. Walker, a stone-cutter, twenty-three years old, of No. 473 Bergen-st. received lacerated wounds of the face and shoulders and was also taken to St. John's Hospital. Three other men who were on the scaffold at the time it broke escaped injury.